

The Resurrection of Jesus Messiah

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him, everything else thrown in. (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, very last paragraph)

The Welcome

Dr. Jim Miller

The Prelude

Easter Bells

Michael Ryan

Overtones Bells; Gretchen Bashforth, director

The Prayer of Adoration

The Call to Worship

Rev. James Estes, Julia Metcalf, Rev. Wally Johnson

Once on a darkened Friday, Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, dead and buried --his broken body sealed in a Palestinian tomb.

Those who loved him, sat and wept.

But, then, once upon an early Sunday, when the enemy had done his worst, when all hope was gone, when darkness ruled,

Jesus got up in that tomb, He arose victorious over sin, death and the devil!

And today, here and now, this same Jesus is present --for as the Bible says:

“The Lord is risen!”

He is risen, indeed!

“Christ is risen!”

He is risen, indeed!

Let's stand in gratitude, sing with joy,

And let us worship God!

◆ **The Hymn** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN

◆ **The Sharing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you;

And also with you!

His victory reverberates throughout the earth, extending to every square inch of His creation.

There's victory in Jesus! Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** Victory in Jesus HARTFORD

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me; I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing, how He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see; and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory!

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

The Old Testament Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, Author of every blessing, why wouldn't we welcome you with open hearts today? For you have defeated sin, death and the devil. You have met us amid our deepest need. In our sadness and grief, you offer hope. In our brokenness and sin, you offer salvation. In troubles that are overwhelming, you offer redemption; in loneliness, you offer yourself --and gather us together. Beautiful Savior, loving Redeemer, risen Lord Jesus Christ, have your own way with us today. Forgive our sin, remake us by your love, grant us your beautiful, sustaining grace. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.....*(in silence)*

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light, till from heaven You came running --there was mercy in Your eyes! To fulfill the law and prophets to a virgin came the word from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one! God of glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings!

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost, to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross! For even in your suffering, You saw to the other side, knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died!

Praise the Father, praise the Son, Praise the Spirit, three in one, God of glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings

(Congregation joins)

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath,
'Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had
conquered death! And the dead rose from their tombs, and
the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to
the Father are restored!

And the church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the
flame, now this gospel truth of old, shall not kneel, shall not
faint! By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free,
for the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me!

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one! God of glory, Majesty. Praise forever to the King of Kings! Praise forever to the King of Kings!

The Offered Forgiveness

Friends, join me in echoing the good news:

This is love: not that we loved God but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Come, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness – for all who call upon Him!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith (Nicene Creed, A.D. 325)**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

The Anthem Hark, Ten Thousand Harps and Voices Craig Courtney

Hark, ten thousand harps and voices sound the note of praise above! Jesus reigns, and heaven rejoices, Jesus reigns, the God of Love. See, he sits upon the throne; Jesus rules the world alone. *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Allelu!* *Alleluia! Amen!* Jesus, hail! whose glory brightens all above and

gives it worth; Lord of Life, Thy smile enlightens, cheers, and charms Thy saints on earth. When we think of love like Thine, Lord, we own it love divine. *Refrain.* Savior, hasten Thine appearing; bring, O bring the glorious day when, the mighty summons hearing, heaven and earth shall pass away. Then with all the saints we'll sing, "Glory, glory to our King!" *Refrain.*

The Blessing of the Young Disciples

What Do You Do with the Best News Ever?

William Pugh (8:30)

James Case, Lorraine Hawkins and Dominic Masaku (11:00)

◆ **The Hymn** I Love to Tell the Story HANKEY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above: of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do!

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love!

I love to tell the story for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest! And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love!

The New Testament Reading Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

The Sermon Threatened by Easter!

"And suddenly there was a great earthquake...." Matthew 28:2

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Hutchinson

The Hymn

Lord, We Sing Our Alleluias!

HYMN TO JOY

Lord, we sing our alleluias, hear us as we lift our praise: for the gift of Resurrection, Life in Christ, abundant grace! By your great redemptive power, you defeat our deadly foes; Jesus, you are Resurrection, deep and wide your mercy flows!

As you spoke to those still weeping, so you say to us this day: "I am Life and Resurrection! Why not welcome me today?" To all those entombed in sadness, take the stone of doubt away; call forth joy and special gladness, grant abundant Life, we pray!

With the saints and choirs of angels and the Church in every place, we sing of your gifts of mercy, Triune God of love and grace! Demons routed, death now vanquished, through the One who trumped the grave; deadly sin has lost its power --thanks to Christ who came to save!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: God, we magnify your Name! Yesterday, today, forever, always ever yet the same; faithful, steadfast, is your mercy; unrelenting is your love; sing we now our alleluias with the saints who live above!

◆ The Benediction

◆ **The Choral Response** Hallelujah, from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

The Postlude Toccata, from *Symphony no. 5* Charles-Marie Widor

◆ *Please stand*

We welcome instrumentalists Rob Bailey, Alex Warrior, Rod Clark, Mike Olefsky, and Steve Craft, and thank them for their contribution in worship today.

Worship Notes

Welcome to the First Church community!

Since 1885, as the first church established in Tulsa, we seek to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we'd love to welcome you!

Sunday Morning Worship

Three worship services: 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (informal worship with weekly communion); 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Ensemble Choir); 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org or text 405-276-4141.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

Please notify the church if there is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

We continue to pray for families affected by COVID. And we're hopeful that this year this cloud of sadness and disruption is lifting. Until then, we're all asked to follow the Session's guidelines regarding protocols on campus: "masking up" and distanced by six feet from non-family members. Thanks to each for your efforts in this regard.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Challa Ashlock, Jane Azlin, Billy Boyd, Roy Cail, Joan Hastings Camp, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, Janie Quint, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

Growing Your Faith!

Adult Discipleship (call for brochures with more information):

- Fifteen Sunday morning classes for adults of all ages at 9:30 a.m.
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown - Varied classes offered for adults and AWANA clubs for children. Dinner, 5:15 p.m., classes, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Pastor's Study – beginning *next* Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Dr. Miller guides us through C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* (repeats on Wednesdays, 11:30).

Tulsa International Fellowship – Join with others from across the world for a time of worship and fellowship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Bernsen Center.

Inquirers' Class – Bring your questions! Sunday, April 18, 9:00. An opportunity to explore what it means to join the church, learn more about our family of faith, enjoy a time of fellowship and visit with the pastors. Contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028) for more information.

Presbyterian Women – Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

Serving the Master!

Friday Food Distribution - Partner with First Baptist Church, North Tulsa in giving away groceries to families in need. Contact Allison Biggs at allisonbiggs@gmail.com

Helping Hand Ministry – Serve the neediest Tulsans through a food pantry, informal counseling, and financial assistance. Members serve Mondays or Tuesdays.

Guild of Intercessors – Intercessory prayer group that believes prayer is powerful and life-changing.

Faith Partners – A ministry offering compassion, resources, education and hope for those affected by addiction.

Deacons reach out to those in need – to the sick, the friendless, to any who may be in distress – both within and beyond this community of faith.

Global Mission Trips – Serve Christ in the world – coming opportunities in Mexico, Ireland, and Kenya.

Works of HeART – Art class for clients at the Day Center for the Homeless.

Masterwork Academy – After school program which serves under resourced children as they discover the joy of music, visual art, ballet, and Bible study.

Children’s Ministries – Our focus are children ages birth through 4th grade. We offer Sunday morning programming and Wednesday evening programming as well as other activities throughout the year such as VBS. We look forward to getting to know your family!

Telecare – Help us keep in touch with homebound members and those who need encouragement.

Hospital Chaplains – Volunteers who offer caring visits when members are hospitalized.

Music Ministries!

First Church strives to glorify God across the broad spectrum of musical language. From children’s worship and music programs, a live Christmas Eve Nativity, and seasonal youth ensembles, to the adult Chancel Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and TIF band, plus the Overtones Bell Choir and Gloria Women's Choir, there is a place for you to use your musical gifts at First Church!

Next Generation Ministries! (Cradle to College)

Children’s Ministry - We believe a child’s sense of identity in Christ begins at a very young age and our desire is for them to understand they are a part of God’s big story. From Sunday’s Discipleship Hour, Wednesday night AWANA and VBS to family events including Fall Festival, Advent Workshop and more, we are committed to partnering with families to raise up children who see themselves as part of the family of God – the Church.

FPC Youth - A community of Middle School (5th - 8th) and High School (9th - 12th) students who seek to grow in relationship with Christ; encouraging one another in the day-to-day, and living as the Church here and now!

University Ministries – Designed to reach, teach, and love college-aged students throughout Tulsa so they may be life-long followers of Jesus Christ. Find us on Instagram at *@ukirktulsa* for more information.

*For more information on any of the above,
please contact the church office at 918-584-4701
or www.firstchurchtulsa.org.*

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Classes for NEXT Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

On Site:

Covenanters	The Pursuit of God, led by Tom Philp	E205
Faith and Family		E204
Pastor's Study	Mere Christianity, Dr. Jim Miller	Stephenson Hall
Reflections		E103
Sojourners (All Ages)	Sermon on the Mount and Parables, led by Cam Campbell	E204

On Site and Zoom:

Front Porch	Theology Matters, Rev. Rick Davis	E201
The Vine (<i>Singles/couples</i>)	<i>The Hole in Our Holiness</i>	E100
Young Adults (<i>20's and 30's</i>)	<i>I Corinthians</i> , Rev. Dan Hutchinson	E202

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 4/4/21

6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service, Camp Loughridge
8:30 a.m.	Worship, Stephenson
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary and Great Hall

Monday 4/5/21

Little Lambs	10:00 a.m., Bernsen Gym
Monday School	11:30 a.m., KRC
Guy's Monday Bible Study	11:45 a.m., Room E103

Tuesday 4/6/21

Precept Bible Study	9:30 a.m., Room E100
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Wednesday 4/7/21

Pastor's Study	will reconvene, Wed., April 14
WNDT Dinner	5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall
Gloria Choir	5:45 p.m.
Awana, POW, Life Groups	6:00 p.m.
Confirmation	
Lenten Conversations	6:30 p.m., Stephenson Hall
Choir Ensemble Rehearsal	6:45 p.m., Choir Room

Thursday 4/8/21

Hearts for the Lord	10:00 a.m., Zoom
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Saturday 4/10/21

Before the Rooster Crows	8:45 a.m., Room E103
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April 4, 2021

Sanctuary

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program on the pew as you leave.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ or Guest _____

8:30 Service _____ 11:00 Service _____

Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.



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